

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-04 OIC-01 COME-00

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TAGS: EAGR, OCON, FAO, UN, WFC

SUBJECT: FAO AND WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: AMBASSADOR EBERLE

DUSCUSSION OF US GRAINS POLICY WITH FAO DDG ROY JACKSON

REF: (A) ROME 14142; (B) ROME 14223

1. IN VIEW INTENSIVE DISCUSSION NOW GOING ON IN FAO COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS CONCERNING FAO PROPOSED UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND OF IMPENDING VISIT TO US OF FAO DG BOERMA, FOLLOWING PROVIDES EXPANDED REPORT ON EBERLE/JACKSON CONVERSATIONS REPORTED PARAGRAPH 6 REF (A).

2. AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND CEA MEMBER SEEVERS MET FOR HALF AN HOUR AT EMBASSY WITH FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROY JACKSON (IN ABSENCE FAO DG BOERMA WHO IN NORWAY AT TIME) AND FAO CHIEF BASIC FOOD SERVICE A.G. LEEKS AT INVITATION AMBASSADOR EBERLE. AMBASSADOR
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EBERLE SAID HE HAD TWO MAIN POINTS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS: (1) UNITED

STATES MEASURES TO MANAGE DEMAND/SUPPLY BASIC GRAINS, PARTICULARLY THE RECENT DELAY IMPOSED ON RUSSIAN WHEAT CONTRACTS AND (2) US POLICY AT FORTHCOMING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

A. WITH REGARD EXPORTS, EBERLE SAID US ACTION TOWARD SOVIETS DUE SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEMAND, DESIRE PROTECT TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS AND DESIRE AVOID IMPOSITION EXPORT CONTROLS, EBERLE SAID ADMINISTRATION PROBLEM WAS THAT USG HAD NO RIGHT TO CANCEL CONTRACTS AND COULD ONLY RESORT TO JAWBONING AT THIS POINT. HOWEVER, THE MESSAGE BEHIND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF COLUNTARY RESTRAINTS WAS THAT UNLESS THERE WAS COOPERATION, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO SEEK MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES. JACKSON WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM BEING AN AMERICAN HIMSELF AND HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINTON. HE REFERRED TO HIS MEETING WITH CANADIANS IN OTTAWA AND CONTROL EXERCISED BY GOC THROUGH CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD. JACKSON ALSO STATED THAT DG BOERMA'S REACTION TO UNITED STATES ACTION WAS FAVORABLE AND THAT HE HAD SO INDICATED DURING QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD OF OCTOBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE.

B. WITH REGARD WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, AMBASSADOR EBERLE ASKED JACKSON FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF UNITED STATES POSITIONS TAKEN AT THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. JACKSON ANSWERED CAUTIOUSLY THAT HE WAS AWARE OF DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDE IN US BUT THOUGHT US WOULD TAKE "STRONG POSITION" AT WFC. EBERLE STATED THAT CURRENT US POLICY GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THE FERTILIZER PROBLEM AND FOOD AID, AS NEEDED, BUT FRANKLY HAD RESERVATIONS ON FOOD RESERVE PROPOSALS. HE TOLD JACKSON THIS WAS HARDEST PART FOR US AND WE COULD DISCUSS IN PRINCIPLE BUT, BECAUSE DIRECTLY TIED TO THE MARKET, DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED OTHER FORA. UNITED STATES DEFINITELY NOT READY FOR DETAILED SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, CANNOT ACCEPT ANY "TARGETS." HE SAID US GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS NOT TO HAVE STOCKS BUT WORK WITH COMMERCIAL RESERVES; THAT IS FELT ALL-OUT PRODUCTION IS ALL WE CAN COMMIT OURSELVES TO.

C. JACKSON ASKED FOR EXPLANATION REFERENCE TO REMOVAL FOOD AID RESTRICTIONS IN PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC SPEECH. EBERLE POINTED OUT THAT THAT REFERS TO CURRENT LAW WHICH PROVIDES UNITED STATES CANNOT GIVE FOOD AID IF THERE AN EXCESS OF COMMERCIAL BUYERS. ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO AMEND LAW TO REMEDY THIS IMPEDIMENT.

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D. JACKSON ALSO TOLD EBERLE THAT FAO DIRECTOR-GENERALBOERMA CONSIDERING CALLING A FOOD EXPORTERS MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE. EBERLE ASKED THAT HE CONSULT FIRST WITH UNITED STATES AND WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL TREASURY SECRETARY SIMOM RETURNSFROM BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS. HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT BEEF CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK WOULD HAVE ALL THE EXPORTERS AND THAT SAME GROUP COULD POSSIBLY SERVE DG'S PURPOSE. JACKSON SAID WOULD DISCUSS WITH BOEMA AND ADVISE. MEETING DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 1 REF (B) PROBABLE RESULT.

3. ABOVE NOT CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR EBERLE.
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